

March 1, 2010

Chief's Corner



Last month I met with members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual & Transgender (GLBT) Committee at City Hall. It was a productive exchange of ideas and information. It also provided me an opportunity to renew the Department's commitment to partnering with and resolving issues specific to the GLBT Community.

From now on, I have assigned an Officer to the committee to act as a liaison. This will improve communications, which will have a direct and positive impact on MBPD's response to crimes against the GLBT community.

As you will learn from this issue, a crime committed against someone for no other reason than whom they are is considered a hate crime. Such crimes will not be tolerated. Perpetrators will be identified, aggressively investigated, arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Carlos E Noriega,
Chief of Police

The Beat

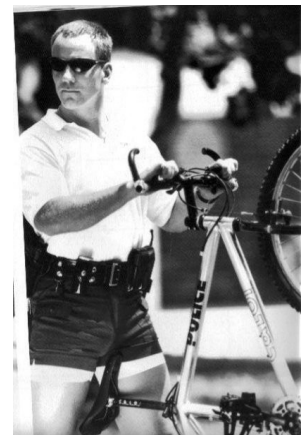


Gone But Not Forgotten

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of retired Officer John Jones, after a very long battle and courageous fight with cancer. Officer Jones served the citizens of Miami Beach beginning in 1989 and retired in 2009 due to his illness. Prior to serving the citizens of Miami Beach, Officer Jones was a highly decorated member of the United States Air Force achieving the rank of Sergeant prior to his honorable discharge in 1988. During his 20 year career Officer Jones received several Letters of Commendations with recommendations for Office of the Month. Officer Jones also received several

complementary letters from citizens and business owners for his exemplary work. After being diagnosed with cancer Officer Jones continued to work as a police officer. His vitality for life, courage and incredible strength displayed during his battle is an inspiration to all his family, friends and colleagues. Because of the his attributes displayed during his battle with cancer Officer Jones was awarded the Laurie Wander Spirit of Life Award by the Fraternal Order of Police in 2006. Officer Jones was laid to rest on February

16, 2010 and is survived by his wife, his daughter, his parents, and his brother. He will be remembered as a someone who never gave up in the face of adversity.



Stranger / Danger

It is very important that parents keep an open line of communication with their children especially the little ones in regards to strangers. Kids need to know what to do in case they are approached by a stranger. The answer is simple tell an adult. An adult can be a teacher, a parent, and / or a police officer. Kids need to know the importance of never going with anyone that they are not supposed to, to never except

candy from a stranger, and most importantly never get into a strange car. Teach your children to walk away from these incidents and report them immediately. If possible set up a code word with your kids in case you are not able to pick them up. Teach them to write down tag numbers of a car if approached by a strange vehicle. Teach them to scream if a stranger picks them up. Teach them about 911 and how to use it

correctly. The departments Community Affairs Unit can go to your kids school to do a presentation. Just contact your Neighborhood Resource Officer.

Mark Your Calendars

Winter Party 03/03/2010

Film Festival 03/05/2010

Music Conference 03/23/2010

Mission Statement

What is Hate Crime ?

A Hate Crime is defined as a committed or attempted act which in any way constitutes an expression of hatred towards the victim because of his / her personal characteristics to include race / color, religion, ethnicity / ancestry / national origin, sexual orientation, advanced age, mental or physical disability. This type of crime is protected by State & Federal Law; however, the laws state that the victim must have been targeted by one of the reasons listed above. The mere fact that something is said in the course of committing a crime does not constitute a hate crime. It is important that these crimes are reported. An officer will respond to take a report but he / she does not have an authority to charge a hate crime. The statue only calls for an enhancement in regards to sentencing, i.e. a 3rd degree misdemeanor becomes a 2nd degree misdemeanor if proven to be a hate crime. This enhancement is executed by the States Attorney's Office. If you are the victim of a hate crime in the City of Miami Beach, report it immediately.

Miami Beach Law Enforcement Professionals deliver policing excellence through proactive services and interactions, providing a safe environment to all who live work and play in our vibrant tropical historic community

CORE VALUES

Honor, Courage and Integrity

How Not to Become a Victim

Most importantly always be aware of your surroundings. When out in a group make sure someone has the task of not drinking and making sure everyone in the group makes it back to your home / hotel safely. Stay out of low light areas. Stay on well travelled streets avoid taking short cuts through parking lots, alleys and / or parks. Remember that most parks and beaches are closed after dark and not patrolled routinely. Try to use ATM's during the day time, have your card out and don't use the machine if you are uneasy about people nearby. If you think you are being followed switch directions, cross the street, walk into a open business / restaurant or anywhere where there are people. Always have your keys ready prior to reaching your home and/or car. Look inside your car before entering. Remember trust your instincts and call the police if you need help.

MIAMI BEACH
POLICE

1100 Washington Avenue
Miami Beach, FL 33139
305.673.7900

Administered by:
Juan F. Sanchez, Detective
Office of Media Relations
305.673.7383

**We are on the
web!**
MiamiBeachFL.gov

Reporting a Hate Crime

If you are witnessing a crime in progress immediately call 911. If you need to report an incident after the fact and the crime occurred in the City of Miami Beach, you can call 305.673.7900 and report the incident. An officer will be sent to you. The officer will document the incident and forward the report to the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) for follow up by Detectives. If required a Crime Scene Technician will respond to document any injuries or the scene. It is important that you tell the officer why you feel the incident is a hate crime so it can be properly documented in the report.. The Offi-

cer will not title the report as a hate crime, it will be labeled appropriately as occurred i.e. a Battery, Vandalism etc. If an arrest is made the subject will be charged the same. An Officer **CANNOT** charge anyone with a Hate Crime. The State and Federal Law is an enhancement in regards to filing the case and sentencing. A Detective will be assigned to all hate crimes at which point statements will be taken. The case will be reviewed by all proper authorities within the Police Department and the State Attorney's Office. If and when the incident is labeled a hate crime the State Attorney's Office will reclassify the case with

the immediate highest crime (one step up) as indicated in the above story "What is a Hate Crime". In order to provide the best possible service to any victim of a hate crime the Department does have a Hate Crimes Hotline 305.604.2110. The caller can leave a message and someone will call them back. The hotline is monitored by the Media Relations Office and is set up to make notifications immediately after a message is left. A Media Relations Officer will call back the caller and facilitate with the reporting of the crime.